



**DANK National Executive Board
Meeting – 1:30 PM
August 29th, 2009**

Attending: William Fuchs, Erik Wittmann, Donna Lippert, Maria Thompson, Beverly Pochatko, Robert Miske, Edwin Gunther, Hilde Schloesser, Dave Hinz, and Chris Decker. Ernst Ott, Alexandra Pradella-Ott, Christa Garcia, Ann Marie Fuhrig, Rein Lippert, Rudy Schloesser, Darlene Fuchs, Stephen Fuchs, Eva Timmerhaus, Amelia Cotter and Mary Ann Hinz. **Excused:** Margaret Potocki (Region 3).

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM with a full quorum present.

Opening Remarks by NP Fuchs: We as an organization need change to be able to survive. The needs of the chapters need to be communicated for National to provide the catalyst to get things accomplished. With this Board, we have created a lot of changes, some highly visible while others are subtle including: the modernization and layout of the office; our national web-site; the newspaper. Are we going where we want to go? At times there has been resistance and this is discouraging to the Board, however it is offset by the encouragement by the individual membership.

Minutes: The July 29th minutes were approved on August 9th, 2009.

Financial Report: We are still in transition due to our early dues collection last fall. In the year to date report (attached) we have a deficit of \$12,071.02. We used \$14,439.70 from our assets that will be returned when the dues income starts in the fall. ***A motion to accept the financial report was made by Erik Wittmann and seconded by Donna Lippert. Motion carried.***

Additions to the Agenda:

A proposal to modify the number of delegates to the National Convention. (Chris Decker, R3)

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Dues payment report update –a resource letter was sent to the Chapters to deal with unpaid members.

- i. Three notices sent by National in November, January and March.
- ii. Supplemental letter was sent via the Region Presidents.
- iii. A notice of purging records was sent in July to be followed up by the Chapters and the Regions.
- iv. A reinstatement fee of \$5 is required in order for the member to retain their seniority.

B. Chapters Report (Erik Wittmann)

- i. Peoria: Cobi Stein and Erik Wittmann met with the Chapter members and were able to get a new Board elected. The issue of a CD valued at approximately \$9,000 has been resolved with Mr. Rudi Husack and the Chapter.
- ii. Indianapolis and Cleveland Chapters have resolved their issues and are moving ahead.
- iii. Columbus – Not sure about their standing regarding the 501c3 status, however the founding of the “Friends of German School of Columbus” seems to have resolved the issue. The Regional President will contact them to clarify this.
- iv. Chapter standings: Erik Wittmann is working on 6 chapters whose standing is unclear. Mason Dixon sub-chapter is just about ready to stand alone as a new Chapter next year.

C. Travel Reimbursement Policy: Two of the three Regions have accepted the new policy.

- i. In Region one, there seems to be a misunderstanding on what National is trying to accomplish. Erik Wittmann, Bill Fuchs and Maria Thompson, Donna Lippert and Beverly Pochatko will attend their Regional meeting on Sunday to explain the policy and clear up misunderstandings.
- ii. It is a 'win-win' situation for the Chapters/Region as National will carry the major burden of the travel expenses.

D. DANK Haus Update: Dagmar Freiberger, President of DANK Chicago had been contacted by a newspaper reporter regarding the sale of the DANK Haus. She relayed to the reporter that the building has NOT been sold to Mr. Erich Himmel as falsely reported.

E. Office Update: We are in need of a new copier for the office. This morning at the Committees Mtg., *Erik Wittmann made a motion to proceed with the purchase of a copy machine for \$400 and no more than \$700 out of our general funds. Seconded by Chris Decker. Motion carried.* The need to secure new computers and to update our database for the office was also discussed. It was suggested that we make an appeal to the Chapters for help at the national convention.

F. Associate Members:

- i. Ernst Ott reported that we are down from 55 Associate members to approximately 11.
- ii. A new brochure was designed and is waiting for Mr. Ott's approval.
- iii. The Heurig Haus Museum will be ready to open in November.
- iv. German American Day proclamation has been requested. NP Fuchs will attend the ceremonies in Washington DC on Oct 6th.
 - a. We hope to get the Presidential proclamation in time and a copy will be forwarded to the chapters in a .pdf file.
 - b. Regional Presidents need to contact the Chapters to see if they need help in getting the proclamation from their local mayors.
 - c. Chicago's German American Day celebration will take place on October 4th.
- v. The German American Friendship Garden has been taken care of. There is a need for a new, more visible, plaque.

G. Public Relations

- i. The new updated brochures have been designed in such a manner that Chapters can place their own return label on the back cover. Applications will fit inside it.

H. Milwaukee German Fest - Our booth was well received in a great location.

- i. It was unanimously agreed that we sponsor a booth again next year.
- ii. Chapters are encouraged to have a booth at their German Fests to promote DANK membership and our VISA cards.

I. German World Update: They asked that we pay them \$3/member for the members to receive a subscription to their magazine. We are not in a position to do this and it was unanimously agreed upon that we turn down their offer.

K. Fifty year Membership Pins – There was a request for a special pin for members of 50 years. A nice pin can and will be created by October.

L. A proposal was made by Chris Decker of Region 3 to modify the number of delegates to the National Convention as follows:

- For 15 – 100 members - three (3) delegates;
- For 100 – 199 members - four (4) delegates;

- **For 200 members and above, the current formulary stands.**
- **To further allot 1 delegate for each sub-Chapter to Chapters hosting sub-chapter(s) of 25 or more members each in addition to their allotted Chapter delegates.**

The modification of the delegates to be effective in 2011. The motion was made by Chris Decker and seconded by Dave Hinz. Motion carried. This proposal will go to the National Convention.

J. National Convention

1. There are major concerns as there has been confusion regarding the hotel rates. The rooms are \$99 or \$108.99 with tax.
2. Delegates and Chapters need to be informed of the schedule of events
 - a. Thursday evening is the early get-together.
 - b. Friday activities begin at 9:00 AM
3. Delegates are required to attend the workshops scheduled from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. If they attend all of the workshops and have their "Passport" stamped at the conclusion, the Chapter will receive a \$25 refund for each of their delegates.
4. The Education Directors have requested that a 45 minute forum on "Educational Opportunities" be added to the list of workshops.
5. The Delegates Fee has not yet been established. It was determined that the Delegate package would be \$25 + \$25 workshop fee (refunded if they present their fully stamped passport); Delegate Tote bag, T-Shirt etc. and the dinner package would cost approximately \$150 total each.
6. Alexandra Praedella Ott inquired about the singing and was referred to coordinate with DANK South as to the best time.
7. There will be a new National Board installation Ceremony this year to bring more meaning about their roles as elected leaders. New Pins to be given the Board members is being considered.
8. Awards Ceremony – The four awards established at the last National Convention will stand. It was requested that we do not present the crystal "salad bowls" but something more meaningful such as a glass etched plaque with a clock or desk pen sets as examples. It was also determined that we need to go back to giving special awards to thank people for their donation of time, goods and volunteer efforts.

Being no further business, Erik Wittmann made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Donna Lippert.
Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 PM

The elected national officers will attend the Region 1 meeting tomorrow at 11:00 AM
The next meeting of the National Board will be on October 10th, 2009 in Chicago.

Beverly A. Pochatko

Beverly Pochatko
National Recording Secretary

**Motions and Actions To Be Acted Upon
July 29th 2009
National Executive Board Meeting**

- A motion to accept the financial report was made by Erik Wittmann and seconded by Donna Lippert. Motion carried.
- *Erik Wittmann made a motion to proceed with the purchase of a copy machine for \$400 and no more than \$700 out of our general funds. Seconded by Chris Decker. Motion carried.*
- We sponsor a booth at the Milwaukee German Fest again next year.
- **It was unanimously agreed upon that we do not accept the German World Magazine offer.**
- Fifty year Membership Pins – There was a request for a special pin for members of 50 years. A nice pin can and will be created by October.
- **A proposal was made by Chris Decker of Region 3 to modify the number of delegates to the National Convention as follows:**
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The modification of the delegates to be effective in 2011. The motion was made by Chris Decker and seconded by Dave Hinz. Motion carried via a roll call vote. This proposal will go to the National Convention.

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